



## A STUDY ON ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL STATUS AND GOVERNANCE OF TRIBAL COMMUNITY IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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### ABSTRACT

This paper examines the status and governance of Schedule Tribes in Andhra Pradesh. Schedule Tribes (ST's) are Indian population groups that are explicitly recognized by the constitution of India order 1950. The order lists 744 tribes across 22 states in its first schedule. In Andhra Pradesh 33 types of Schedule Tribes are living in 8 districts. ST's are 5.7% in total population of Andhra Pradesh. They have rich heritage along with their innocent life style. As they are living in hill areas and forests they have some peculiar characters like indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, and shyness of contact with other communities, geographical isolation, backwardness etc. As education and technology advances the life of Schedule Tribe is changing towards advance which makes them happy in the society.

### KEYWORDS :

#### INTRODUCTION

The tribal population of the country, as per 2011 census, is 10.43 crore, constituting 8.6 per cent of the total population. 89.97 per cent of them live in rural areas and 10.03 per cent urban areas. The decadal population growth of the Tribals from Census 2001 to 2011 has been 23.66 per cent against the 17.69 per cent of the entire population. Broadly the STs inhabit two distinct geographical area - the Central India and the North-Eastern Area. More than half of the Scheduled Tribe Population is concentrated in Central India, i.e., Madhya Pradesh (14.69), Chhattisgarh (7.5), Jharkhand (8.29), Andhra Pradesh (5.7), Maharashtra (10.08), Orissa (9.2), Gujarat (8.55) and Rajasthan (8.86).

#### Standard of Living:

Amenities are the indicators of standard of living of any person or group of people in any location. The following table informs the economic position of tribal.

#### Basic Amenities in India – A comparison of all Social groups and STs (Census 2011)

(figures in Percentage)

S. No	Indicators	All Social Groups	ST
1.	Total hours (no.)	24,66,92,667	2,33,29,105
	(a) Good houses	53.1	40.6
2.	Drinking water within premises	46.6	19.7
	(a) Perceived full intervention (treated tap water, hand pump etc)	65.46	53.82
3.	Households having latrine facility within premises	46.9	22.6
4.	Availability of bathing facility within premises	42.0	17.3
5.	Percentage of Households having separate kitchen inside	61.3	53.7
6.	Electricity as main source of lighting	67.2	51.7
7.	Financial inclusion of HHs availing Banking Services	58.7	44.98
8.	Mobile connectivity	53.2	31.1
9.	Possession of Television	47.2	21.9

**Source:** Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GOI (2013) Statistical profile of STs in India, p.69.

The above table informs the minimum facilities available to Tribals in India, comparing other social groups. The population of tribal are 10 crore, whereas houses are 2 crore, among them good houses are 41

per cent. The all indicators of drinking water, latrines, bathing, separate kitchen, electricity for lighting, banking services, mobile connectivity and Television are found abnormally below to other social groups.

#### Lower Infant Mortality rate:

It is found that STs have a lower infant mortality rate (62.1%) than SCs (66.4%) but higher than OBCs (56.6%). Even the pre-natal mortality rate for STs (40.6%) is lower than other social group / castes.

#### Women Development and Child Welfare

In terms of A.P. Re-organization Act, 2014, which envisages bifurcation of the existing state of Andhra Pradesh into two states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on the appointed day of June 02, 2014? To implement various programmes an amount of Rs. 89366.78 lakhs is provided in the Budget for the year 2014-15. Out of which, Rs.4308.96 lakhs is allocated towards Tribal Sub Plan.

#### Scheduled Tribe in Governance

The Directorate of Tribal Welfare is the chief controlling officer for the Departmental Budget. It formulates, directs the process of implementation and monitors the progress tribal functional report of all tribal developmental programs in the State. He is also ex-officio Managing Director of AP ST Finance Corporation and responsible for implementing Economic Support programs. Commissioner, Tribal Welfare is also discharging functions as Member Secretary of AP TW Residential Educational Institutions Society (GURUKULAM), which manages Residential Schools, Residential Jr. Colleges, English Medium Schools, Institutions of Excellence and Mini Gurukulams intended to provide quality 125 educations to the ST children. AP Tribal Power Company (TRIPCO) and AP Tribal Mining Corporation are also functioning under the control of Commissioner, Tribal Welfare. Article 342 prescribes the procedure to be followed in the matter of specification of Scheduled Tribes.

#### Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh: Demography

Among human beings the worst affected people and far away people to civilized societies are tribal, who are called indigenous, primitive people and pre-agricultural development level. Much of them, centuries together are in Superstitious, Savage, Hunting and Gathering. In east 68 years, the fruits of development were flown into them, In fact, it is found that civilized people are exploiting the tribal people in all stages- socio-economically, politically and culturally. The following table analyses the distributions of Tribal population in Andhra Pradesh State.

**Table – 3: District-wise Scheduled Tribe Population and Sex Ratio, 2011 census**

S.No	District	Male	Female	Total	Sex ratio
1	Srikakulam	1,25,214	1,30,450	2,55,664	1042
		(49.0)	(51.0)	(100.0)	
2	Viziangaram	1,21,493	1,26,235	2,47,728	1039
		(49.0)	(51.0)	(100.0)	
3	Visakapatnam	1,62,873	1,66,613	3,29,486	1023
		(49.0)	(51.0)	(100.0)	
4	East Godavari	4,68,883	4,76,386	9,45,269	1016
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
5	West Godavari	4,03,693	4,08,005	8,11,698	1011
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
6	Krishna	4,35,412	4,35,651	8,71,063	1001
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
7	Guntur	4,76,333	4,81,074	9,57,407	1010
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
8	Prakasam	3,97,242	3,90,619	7,87,861	983
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
9	SPS. Nellore	3,32,673	3,33,915	6,66,588	1004
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
10	Chittoor	3,89,582	3,96,178	7,85,760	1017
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
11	YSR Kadapa	2,32,123	2,33,671	4,65,794	1007
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
12	Anantapur	2,92,379	2,90,756	5,83,135	994
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
13	Kurnool	3,70,215	3,67,730	7,37,945	993
		(50.0)	(50.0)	(100.0)	
<b>Total</b>		<b>42,08,115</b>	<b>42,37,283</b>	<b>84,45,398</b>	
		<b>(50.0)</b>	<b>(50.0)</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>	

Source: DES, 2013 Statistical Abstract Andhra Pradesh 2013, p.49.

The table denotes that Guntur District stood first with 9.57 lakh Tribal population, next East Godavari with 9.45 lakhs. The least tribal population district are Vizianagaram, Srikakulam. Regarding sex ratio, Srikakulam District had high female sex ratio and least district is Anantapur, follows Nellore and Kurnool, respectively. It is fortunate that female number is just higher than male.

**Tribal Farming:**

In last 68 years of independence Tribals are the neglected class in India, in general and Andhra Pradesh, in particular. The following table provides a bird's eye view of Tribal economic activities A bird's eye view of the Tribal situation will not let us ignore the myriad problems that surround tribal life making it a literal hell as earth. Example, while selling of children is alarming on the one hand, on the other hand the number of tribal women being pushed finds into prostitution is also threatening. Particularly some areas of Andhra Pradesh like Anantapur seem to be sending a number of Tribal women into the profession of selling their bodies.

**District-wise and Category wise Distribution of Scheduled Tribe Main Workers in Andhra Pradesh (2011 Census)**

(in Number)

S. No	District	ST main Workers	Cultivators	% of Col.4 over Col.3	Agricultural Labourers	% of Col.6 over Col.3
1.	Srikakulam	56,489	6,988	12.37	42,330	74.93
2.	Viziangaram	98,009	12,949	13.21	73,463	74.96
3.	Visakapatnam	2,48,972	1,38,637	55.68	80,635	32.39
4.	East Godavari	89,011	22,183	24.90	55,092	61.85
5.	West Godavari	52,352	3,804	7.27	39,899	76.21
6.	Krishna	57,209	1,854	3.24	36,857	64.43
7.	Guntur	1,20,613	8,410	6.97	85,938	71.25
8.	Prakasam	66,876	2,841	4.25	43,914	65.66

9.	SPS. Nellore	1,22,842	2,201	1.79	91,913	74.82
10.	Chittoor	68,177	5,770	8.46	45,398	66.59
11.	YSR Kadapa	31,485	1,977	6.28	18,015	57.22
12.	Anantapur	60,121	11,286	18.77	30,403	50.57
13.	Kurnool	35,819	3,480	9.72	18,274	51.02

Source: DES, 2013 Statistical Abstract Andhra Pradesh 2013, p.65.

The table above has analysed that regarding Main Workers, Cultivators Visakapatnam is the leader with the highest number 2.5 lakhs, 1.4 lakhs respectively and least in Kadapa district with 31.4 thousands and 1.9 thousands respectively. Whereas in Agricultural labourers Nellore District is in top with 92 thousands and least is 1.8 thousands in Kadapa district. In overall, in Coastal Districts Tribals were spreaded both in riverside and on hillocks; who needed education and health services for speedy development. The distribution of Tribal population is uneven and dispersed in different pockets of newly formed Andhra Pradesh. Generally, they are far away to normal citizens either in hill areas, rivers side or below hills in Andhra Pradesh. They are moving from hunting and gathering stage to digital Tribals.

**Education and Training:**

Tribal Welfare Department is maintaining 331 Ashram Schools with a strength of 84,648 ST students; 195 Hostels with a strength of 10,084; 2036 Govt. Primary Schools with a strength of 45,114 and 168 Post-metric hostels with a boarder strength of 28,560 St students. 93% of students STs passed in the SSC exams held in March, 2014. 31 ST students are sponsored for admission into Hyderabad Public Schools (HPS) to get quality education during 2014-2015. Rs70.93 crore were sanctioned to ST Students up to March 2014 in 2013-14. The Institute of Electronic Governance Serves as a Nodal Agency for the development of 17 solutions and operationalizes activities of governance applications, training. Special Training Programmes for socially challenged sections of the society and registration of more technical colleges to cater to training needs of outgoing graduates are also planned for 2014-15.

**Health Services:**

Government of Andhra Pradesh initiated a number of initiatives and interventions to improve delivery of effective, accessible and Quality health services to tribal citizens living in agency areas. Adolescent friendly health clinics were established at AAs, CHCs and PHCs in tribal districts. Specialist camps are conducted twice a month in 30 CHCs at all Tribal areas. Srisailam Project hospital was proposed to be developed as a multi-specialty hospital. 61 MCH & Epidemic teams were provided in tribal areas and these teams are continued till date. Low staff vacancy ratios are ensuring maintenance of critical staff required for health services. There is a full contingent of 24 Medical officers, 225 staff nurses, 166 lab technicians and 114 pharmacists. 25 birth waiting homes in 6 Tribal areas were sanctioned and constructed to increase institutional deliveries and reduce MMR and IMR. The community involvement, united funds, village health and sanitation committee, special initiatives, emergency Health Transportation Scheme, Fixed day health services, Health information helpline 104 Services were also implemented in the Agency areas are being in practice.

**E-Tendering for sale of forest Produce:**

In a bid to attract more bulk traders from within and outside Andhra Pradesh, Girijan Cooperative Corporation (GCC) launched e-tendering process for sale of minor forest produce, e-tendering process for sale of 15 minor forest produce items such as Nexvomica, dry-amla, cleaning nuts, mahuva flower, bees wax, myrobalans, marking nuts, gum karaya, tamarind, turmeric, soap nuts etc. for the first time. The expected value of the e-tender process is about Rs.7 crore. The process is aimed at bringing in transparency, get better procurement price to tribal people for the forest produce, attract more traders from anywhere in the world to participate in the auction process without being physically present at GCC headquarters. More importantly e-tendering process will eliminate middleman and increase per capita income for 20 lakh tribal people.

**CONCLUSION:**

This paper examines the status and governance of Schedule Tribes in Andhra Pradesh. Schedule Tribes (ST's) are Indian population groups that are explicitly recognized by the constitution of India order 1950. As education and technology advances the life of Schedule Tribe is changing towards advance which makes them happy in the society.

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